



Envision Arlington Diversity Task Group

Date: Monday, June 11, 2018

Time: 6:45pm Social Time
7- 9pm Meeting

Location: Jefferson Cutter House, lower level gallery, Arlington Center, corner Massachusetts Avenue and Mystic Street. Entrance from town parking lot, ground level.

Agenda:

1. **Welcome-** sign-ins & introductions
 2. **Review and acceptance of last month's minutes**
 3. **Diversity project reports from (town, parents, students):**
 - **Highschool Intern** welcome and role for the Fall
 - **Town Day-** "We Are Arlington Project", public engagement, signups.
 - **METCO-** Friends & Family (arlington host), & Apple picking
 - **Adding cultural competency & upstanding to the Anti-bullying curriculum**
 - **Curriculum-**Sub-Committee on Accountability, Curriculum/Instruction and Assessment meeting
 - **Superintendent's Diversity Advisory Committee-** update on cultural competency district goal
 - **Parent Diversity, Inclusion, & Equity Startup Groups -what's going right?, what's been challenging?, what's one thing that can help with those challenging things?**
 - Bishop, Brackett, Dallin, Hardy, Pierce, Stratton, Thompson.
- Other:**
- **Rainbow Coalition-** update (restorative justice, other)
 - **Human Rights Coalition-**update (pride month, other)

Upcoming DTG meetings – all held at Jefferson Cutter House.
Summer recess in July and August;
September 17, October 15, November 12?, December 10.

For more information, go to our website, arlingtonmadtg.org or contact Michaiah Healy, diversitytaskgroupARL@gmail.com

Minutes:

Attendance: Marry Harris, Allen Shram, Miriam Stein, Jane Lynch, Kevin Ferguson, Sophie Sphink, Alberto Guzman, Rajeed, Josh Ayares, Katell Guellec, Kristina Fontanez, Sean Garballey, Brooks Harrelson, Lynette Martin, Naomi Greenfield, Mia Kiistalla, Swapna Bolleboina, Michaiah Healy

1. Roundtable introductions, including what brings you to the meeting and where you have seen and/or received kindness in Arlington.

2. Minutes of our last meeting were read and approved.

3. Diversity Project Reports

- Our new AHS intern, Sophie Sphink, was introduced; she is the third DTG intern. Sophie will be coming to meetings and clubs, focusing on social media content.
- Town Day is 09/15/18 from 10-3. Set-up and clean-up help is needed. This is an opportunity to engage the town around diversity goals. Naomi described the We Are Arlington project, which will highlight photograph portraits of diverse Arlington residents. A small committee is needed to develop a photo booth for Town Day, which could eventually be turned into a book, art exhibit, and for use in curriculum.
- Michaiah reported on her meeting with Margaret, director of METCO for Arlington. Goal is to break through some blocks in communication and to foster more organic relationships at seasonal events and in the classroom. Parent reps are needed at Brackett, Hardy, and Peirce. Currently, there are 71 METCO students in Arlington.
- Not enough is being done about anti-bullying in the current curriculum. Attendees reported that a couple of assemblies have happened and that some guidance counselors have told students they don't need to speak out if they see bullying. Students would benefit from learning how to be an ally ("upstanding"), perhaps starting at Ottoson and with QSA clubs and then other clubs. Ideas for trainings included Quabbin Meditation and True Story Theater.
- Miriam updated on the Superintendent's Diversity Advisory Committee. The hope is that highlighting unconscious bias will be added to the District's goals for next year. Also, we're hoping for a 5th District goal to be created re: cultural competency. There was some pushback at the last meeting to this idea, with people saying cultural competency is already included in the other goals. There will be a meeting in August to further explore.
- Updates were given on the various elementary school parent groups. The four schools in person to report were Brackett, Dalin, Peirce, and Stratton. One goal is to not alienate the principals and teachers. The school principals do need to communicate better. We also discussed the best ways to discern what each school community needs.
- Brooks gave an update on Pride Month events, especially the first annual picnic that happened on June 10.